

App. No.: 10/065178
Filed: September 24, 2002
Conf. No.: 6288

Page 6 of 6

REMARKS

The indicated allowance of claims 26-30 and allowability of claims 12-25 in the Final Rejection of December 11, 2003 is noted with appreciation. The courtesies granted applicants' attorney by the Examiner in charge of this application during the recent telephone interview are greatly appreciated. In preparation for the interview, a proposed amendment was submitted to the Examiner by e-mail. As a result of this interview, the proposed amendment is being formally submitted.

During the interview it was submitted that the art final rejection and the rejection under 35 USC 112 were well taken. In order to overcome these rejection and to more clearly defined over the prior art of record it was propose to amend claim 1 to clarify the previous amendment and more clearly define over the art of record.

The amendment emphasizes that applicants' force sensor is loaded by from the manual drive element by a mechanical force transmitting device that translates the motions applied by the operator to the manual drive element in a different direction so as to load the force sensor which turn detects the actual applied force but is not a part of the actual transmission between the manual drive element and the driven element.

It was pointed out to the Examiner during the interview that each of the primary references applied by the Examiner employ lost motion connections between the manual drive element and the driven element and require a lost motion connection that loads the sensor in the same direction that the manual force was apply. Therefor, the sensors of the prior are type devices is in a fact positioned directly in the connection to the manual drive element with the result of possible damage and lost performance.

The Examiner agreed during the interview that the proposed amendment to claim 1 clearly emphasize this distinction and, subject to further review, would place the case in condition for allowance. Also since all of the non-elected claims retained depend directly or indirectly on allowed claims, they may remain in the case.

Therefor, favorable action is most courteous solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



Ernest A. Beutler
Reg. No. 19901

Phone (949) 721-1182
Pacific Time